

SERCCOT Meeting Minutes 09/30/2025

In-Person: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Dan Brogan, SRPEDD- Maria Foster, MassDOT- Rachel Fichtenbaum, MassDOT- Dr. Gloria Saddler, Fall River- Mandy Aquino, SRTA	Virtual: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kerri Victorio, GATRA• Angela Constantino, GATRA• Will Gardner, Fairhaven• Amber Davis, SRPEDD• Noah Soutier, SRPEDD• Dick Shafer, Taunton• Mary Rapposa, New Bedford• Eileen Wheeler Sheehan, ABLE Associates• Karen D Martin, Fall River Redevelopment Authority• Lori Fahey, Lakeville COA
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Introduction & Transit Updates:

- Dan Brogan shared regional transit updates including the Gateway Link, which connects Fall River, Taunton, Stonehill College, and Brockton every hour, with express Fall River-Brockton connections every two hours. The Gateway Link is also free to ride for the time being. SRTA expanded its MicroConnector service within Fall River and New Bedford to provide door-to-MBTA station service to address last mile-gaps. Dan Brogan also shared that GATRA is currently on strike, and that there are temporary service disruptions. The Union is still negotiating with GATRA to end the strike as soon as possible.

Public Participation Plan

- Andrea asked SERCCOT members about the ongoing Public Participation Plan, and focused the discussion on community engagement. Andrea had asked about effective ways of getting info and news beyond social media. Multiple SERCCOT members shared that there is an opportunity to boost engagement utilizing bulletin boards, collaborating with library systems, and closed-circuit television at COAs, and schools.
- Christina Mendoza highlighted that outreach at RTA terminals leads to “very high” participation and meaningful conversations with community members. Gloria Saddler had also expressed that tabling at community events, and site visits are helpful ways of sharing information in formal and informal ways.

Community Transportation Grant Program FY 26 Presentation & Discussion

- Rachel Fichtenbaum and Maria Foster from MassDOT presented on the Community Transit Grant Program (CTGP), which includes three different applications that communities and organizations can apply for including: Vehicles; Operations; and the new Micromobility Grant. The grant emphasizes serving people with disabilities, older adults, and now low-income community members.
- Maria and Rachel provided examples of previously funded projects which included COAs working with RTAs for vans, centralizing services and information sharing, healthcare transit.
- Rachel and Maria discussed a step-by-step process for applying, eligibility, and deadlines for the grants. The deadline for the CTGP Operating and Micromobility Grants are due 11/07/2025, and the Vehicle Grant application is due 11/21/2025.
- Rachel and Maria also shared office hours to learn more and workshop applications on 10/06, 10/16 and 10/21/2025.

Regional Transportation Discussion

- Following the Grants conversation, Dick Shafer raised a concern for transportation and employment. Shafer highlighted a need for connecting industrial centers, and businesses with convenient transit options. Gloria Saddler had also shared the need for transit, particularly for individuals working beyond traditional 9-5 hours. Dan brought up that there are service agencies and employment centers who will partner with ridesharing companies to provide door-to-door transit outside of traditional working hours. Dan also highlighted that SRPEDD is in the process of starting a fare-free economic study with SRTA that will explore the relationship of transportation with businesses within the region.